(a) whether Government have taken a final decision on the proposal to enhance the wage ceiling for coverage under the EPF and MP Act; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) The wage ceiling for coverage has been raised from Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 6500/- per month under the Employees Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 *with effect from* 1.6.2001.

MoU with Myanmar to maintain Tamu-Kalewa Road

*74. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Myanmar for maintenance of 160 km long Tamu-Kalemyo-Kalewa Road;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when MoU would be operative for the benefit of people of both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of India on cooperation in the maintenance of the Tamu-Kalemyo road was signed on 25th May, 2001 in Yangon. Under this MoU the Government of India has the responsibility for the maintenance of the road for the first six years by providing the services of an Indian Road Maintenance Force along with necessary materials, equipment and manpower.

The MoU entered into force from the date of its signing *i.e.* from 25th May, 2001.

Computerisation of Passport Offices

*75. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Passport Offices functioning in the country;